

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. R. B. Walthall, secretary to the Governor, appeared at the bar of the House, and being duly announced, presented the following message from the Governor, which was read to the House, as follows:

Governor's Office,
Austin, Texas, February 19, 1921.

To the House of Representatives.

Gentlemen: I am returning herewith to you without my approval House bill No. 28. My reasons for not approving the bill are as follows:

1. Because this bill seeks to appropriate four hundred thousand dollars for wolf scalps, half of this amount to be paid by the State and half by the county. This is entirely too large an appropriation for this purpose.

2. Because the present way of killing wolves seems ample and has the approval of most of the stockmen. I am advised that during the past year, and at this time, forty-six professional wolf hunters are employed jointly by the Federal government, the State government and private contributions. The hunters and trappers work systematically under the direction of a general supervisor. Under this system, during the past year, the Federal government appropriated \$25,000, the State government appropriated \$25,000 and private contributions added to these two amounts swelled the total to \$72,000. I understand that forty-six hunters are now working under the direction of those in charge of this plan, and as the wolf area is not comparatively large, seems for the present ample.

3. Because this bill makes the county in which wolves are killed pay a bounty of \$1.50 for each wolf killed without the taxpayers or the commissioners court agreeing to do so.

4. Because it permits professional hunters and trappers to go upon the lands of another without the consent of the owner.

5. Because the bounty hunters and trappers, under the guise of hunting,

will go upon the lands of others and kill his deer, disturb his wild game and gather his pecans.

6. Because the ranch owner has no control in any way over the hunter who roams at will, and shoots at pleasure, when and where he pleases.

For the reasons above stated, I have vetoed and disapproved said bill.

Respectfully yours,

PAT M. NEFF,

Governor.